LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF STAMFORD.

ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1947.

The vital statistics for the year are again very satisfactory with a birth rate equal to that of England and Wales, a lower death rate and an infantile mortality rate of only 28.5 as compared with 41.0 for the rest of the country, which latter figure constitutes a low record.

No deaths have occurred in connection with child birth and there have been no serious epidemics of infectious disease.

Immunisation against diphtheria has made steady progress and it is estimated that over 95% of school children have been fully immunised. No case of diphtheria has occurred.

38 Council houses have been completed and a further 17 were in the course of erection at the end of the year; 17 cases of overcrowding have been rehoused but unfortunately a further 17 such cases still remain. At the close of the year there were some 400 applicants for Council Houses.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	1918 acres.
Population	10,480.
Rateable Value	£68076.
Sum represented by Penny Rate .	£270.
Number of Inhabited Houses from Rate Book	3160.

			M.	F.	
Live Births.	Total	210	106	104	Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 20.0 Corresponding figure for England & Wales - 20.5
	Legitimate		97	99	
	Illegitimate		9	5	
Still Births.	Total	4	2	2	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 0.37 Corresponding rate for England & Wales - 0.50
	Legitimate		2	1	
	Illegitimate		-	1	
Deaths.	Total	116	53	63	Death Rate per 1,000 population - 11.0 Corresponding figure for England & Wales - 12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis 0

Deaths from other Puerperal causes ..... 0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	28.5
Corresponding figures - all infants for England & Wales	41.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	28.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs of age)	1.

Increase in Birth Rate compared with 1946 ...	3.0
Decrease in Death Rate compared with 1946 ...	1.9
Increase in Infantile Mortality Rate 1946 of .	6.0

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examinations of pathological specimens in connection with infectious diseases and bacteriological examinations of water supplies are carried out in the Ministry of Health Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, at an annual charge of £10. This service is of immense value in controlling epidemic diseases.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

1. WATER.

The water supply of the Borough is provided by the Stamford Water Works, owner, The Marquess of Exeter, K.G., C.M.G.

This is a piped supply derived from the following sources:-

Bone Mill.	(Well)
Whitewater.	(Springs)
Wothorpe.	(Springs)
Northfields, Stamford.	(Bore Hole)
Ryhall Road, Stamford.	(Bore Hole)

The Bone Mill supply can be augmented by springs situated on the Leicester Road, Thornhaugh and Burghley High Park. Both these supplies have been used during the year.

Water is derived from the Lincolnshire Limestone and all supplies with the exception of the Northfields and Ryhall Road bore holes are situated without the Borough, (South of the river Welland) in the high ground of the Soke of Peterborough.

All supplies have a high total and permanent hardness.

53 samples of raw water were taken for bacteriological examination during the year; all supplies, other than Whitewater have maintained a high and constant standard of purity. 52 Bacteriological examinations of chlorinated water have been carried out with very satisfactory results. Special precautions have been made for the chlorination of the Whitewater supply. 5 chemical examinations have been made.

Apart from chlorination, no other treatment is given to the water.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:-

(a)	direct to house	3140
(b)	by stand pipe	20

representing a population of 12560 under (a) and 80 under (b).

INSPECTIONS.

No. of inspections for all purposes:-

Meat and Foods	438
Housing and overcrowding	323
Milk and Dairies	190
Shops and Factories	125
Miscellaneous	145
Water Supplies	101
	1322

NOTICES SERVED.

	Issued.	Complied with.
Informal	35	31
Statutory	-	-

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Housing Inspection.

No. of visits	323
No. of Houses inspected	209
No. of Houses inspected and recorded	114
No. of inspections made for the purpose ..	184
No. of Houses found unfit for habitation ..	20
No. of Houses not in all respects fit	57

Remedy of defects.

No. of houses closed as a result of action under Sec.11 of the Housing Act 1936 ..	1
No. of houses dealt with by accepting undertakings from owners	6
No. of houses repaired as result of informal action	34
No. repaired as a result of action under Sec. 9 Housing Act 1936	-
No. of new cases of overcrowding discovered	10
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	17

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

No. of houses in respect of which Notices were served	nil
No. of houses repaired by owners	nil
No. of houses without an indoor water supply representing a population of approximately 80 persons.	20

At the close of the year there were some 478 applicants for Council Houses. 17 further known cases of statutory overcrowding have to be dealt with, together with many families either living in insanitary houses or lodgers; it seems therefore that the estimated figure (made in 1946) for 500 new houses was about correct.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The number of animals slaughtered in the Borough for sale for human consumption and inspected during the year was 4,952.

TABLE 1.

	CATTLE.				
	Ereig.cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
No. of animals inspected	771	312	233	3,511	125
Tuberculosis only.					
No. of whole carcases and offals condemned.	2	15	-	-	2
No. of carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	84	70	-	-	9
Percentage of carcases affected with tuberculosis.	11.15%	27.24%	-	-	8.80%
Diseases other than T.B.					
No. of whole carcases and offals condemned.	5	5	5	50	6
No. of carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	208	52	1	244	19
Percentage of carcases with diseases other than T.B.	27.63%	18.27%	2.58%	8.37%	20%

TABLE 11. DETAILS OF CONDEMNED MEAT SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

Meat Condemned.	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Veal.
Whole Carcases & Offals.	27	50	8	5
Heads.	89	5	5	-
Tongues.	91	5	5	-
Pairs of lungs.	132	121	7	1
Livers.	201	83	3	-
Plucks (complete)	1	3	8	-
Fats (mesenteric)	55	-	5	-
Spleens.	3	-	-	-
Hearts.	1	8	-	-
Kidneys.	16	-	-	-
Udders.	16	-	-	-
Forequarters (whole)	11	1	-	-
Hindquarters (whole)	1	-	-	-
Other parts of carcases	67	81	13	-

The following imported meat has also been condemned:-

3 Forequarters, 7 part forequarters, 5 part hindquarters Beef.

The total weight of all meat condemned was 35,324 lbs.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30134006

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There have been no changes in the Milk and Dairies Register during the year. The monthly sampling of milk from every source retailed in the Borough has been continued and the results are in the main very satisfactory. The extremely high temperature of last summer meant that a number of samples were inevitably taken under conditions when the average temperature exceeded 65°F and the results are therefore not recorded. In all 158 samples were taken and of these 47 were under unsuitable conditions, of the remainder the results were classified as under:-

No. of Samples.	Category A. Marketable.	Category B. Salvage.	Category C. Reject.
111	94 84.7%	14 12.6%	3 2.7%

These results represent a further improvement on those of last year.

26 samples of heat-treated milk were taken and submitted to the methylene blue and phosphatase tests, 3 being taken under unsuitable temperature conditions. Of the remaining 23 samples 22 passed the phosphatase test and 17 the methylene blue test.

Bulk samples of milk from 13 producers were taken from retailers in the town in conjunction with the County Council and submitted to the biological test for presence of Tubercle Bacilli and all were reported negative.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Owing to staff shortages it has not been possible to admit any case of infectious disease into Bourne Isolation Hospital.

By the kindness of Dr. Johnstone, Medical Officer of Health for Peterborough, all infectious cases including some patients with infantile paralysis requiring in-patient treatment, were admitted to the Peterborough City Isolation Hospital. In addition 3 cases of infantile paralysis were admitted to the centre Isolation Block of Stamford Infirmary, where accommodation for infectious cases was only available for a few weeks.

The Borough is in need of guaranteed isolation hospital accommodation.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children known to be immunised during the year:-

0 - 4 yrs. 90. 5 - 14 yrs. 49.

Number of children immunised since commencement of scheme:-

0 - 4 yrs. 851. 5 - 14 yrs. 1751.

The Stamford Red Cross Detachment has for another year rendered invaluable help in staffing the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, which is now held at the Kesteven C.C. Infant Welfare and School Medical Service Clinic at Barn Hill House.

This concentration of services in one centre at Barn Hill, apart from providing excellent accommodation, has been a great help in health education, by the showing of films and the distribution of leaflets.

Valuable help has been given in this respect by certain members of the Infant Welfare Committee who have specialised in this work and devote their whole time to this subject at each clinic.

The response on the part of the mothers on all health matters has been most gratifying, but there is still need for education of those members of the community who do not attend clinics.

Full use was made of the summer Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign.

SCABIES.

The Stamford Scabies Treatment Clinic under the Joint Kesteven County Council Scheme has functioned continuously throughout the year.

As compared with 1946, 10 less cases have been treated from Stamford Borough, and 28 less cases from the surrounding areas.

Patients from the Rural Districts are treated by contract with Kestoven County Council at 17/6d per case, of which sum the Borough receives 5/10d, to cover the cost of drugs, dressings and materials.

Cases are referred to the Clinic by General Medical Practitioners and the School Authorities. No formal notices for compulsory treatment were served.

No. of patients treated during the year:-

	Borough.	South Kesteven R.D.C.	Ketton R.D.C.	Barnack R.D.C.	Oundle & Thrapston R.D.C.	P'boro R.D.C.
Adults.						
Males.	10	-	2	-	-	2
Females	20	1	4	-	1	-
Children.						
School age & under.	54	-	11	-	1	-
	84	1	17	-	2	2

Average number of attendances to complete a cure 2

Maximum number of weekly notifications of fresh cases 10

Average number of weekly notifications of fresh cases 2

Actual Clinic expenses incurred by the Borough, excluding nurses salaries, heating and lighting, which are the responsibility of the County Council, for all patients treated is ..... £17.12.3d.

Average cost per patient treated 3.3¾

Amount refunded to the Borough by Kesteven C.C. in respect of patients in Column 3,4,5 & 6 above ... £ 6. 7.2d.

PEDICULOSIS - INFESTATION by body and head lice.

Total number of houses wherein occupants were found to be infested with head lice ..... 7.

Total number of infested persons reported ..... 9.

All cases were treated at the Scabies Clinic.

Steps taken to combat infestation are the reporting of cases to the Medical Officer of Health by General Practitioners, School Medical Services and Health Visitor and Factory Surgeon; by visiting the homes of children found to be infested, and by arranging for simultaneous treatment under supervision at home or at the clinic.

Treatment for head lice is given either at the Scabies Clinic or by the parents in their homes under supervision of the School Nurse.

Flea infestation of houses is treated by Benzine Hexachloride Dust - results have been quite satisfactory.

BED BUGS.

9 houses have been disinfested for bed bugs.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	15	5 to P'boro	-
Typhoid & Para-Typhoid	-	-	-
Lobar Pneumonia (Primary)	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3	2	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-
Measles.	117 (1 P.O.W.)	-	-
Whooping Cough.	22	-	-
Chicken-pox.	10	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. (Infantile Paralysis)	8	7 3 Stamford Infirmary 4 P'boro Isolation	1

During the year, 8 cases of infantile paralysis were reported. With the exception of one fatal case, all were happily of the mild type leaving no residual paralysis.

Details of all cases were reported to Cambridge under the Ministry of Health Infantile Paralysis survey.

(a) CANCER.

No undue prevalence in the District.

Patients resident in Stamford are treated at Stamford Infirmary under the Kesteven County Council Scheme.

Treatment is also provided at the Scunthorpe Centre.

(b) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Nil.

The Borough Mortuary has been modernised and provided with good post mortem facilities which now meet with the complete approval of the Pathologist, Dr. Fulton of Peterborough.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Notified during year. New Cases.				Notified during year. Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 10 yrs.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 "	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	5	6	-	1	3	1	-	-

Four fewer cases of tuberculosis were notified than in 1946.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis (4) remained the same as in 1946. Special consideration was given to persons suffering from active tuberculosis in the allocation of new houses.

I would like to record my appreciation and thanks for the help and co-operation of the members of the Health Committee and Public Health Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

Stanley Hawes.

July 1948. Medical Officer of Health.

Stanley Hewes.